

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application 10/310,195, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,738,138, entitled SMALL SPOT ELLIPSOMETER, having a filing date of December 4, 2002, and which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/779,761, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,515,744 entitled SMALL SPOT ELLIPSOMETER having a filing date of February 8, 2001, and both of these patent applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--